

**1. What was / has been your occupation before entering politics?**

I started my career as a journalist working for a newspaper in Elliot Lake and covered community, labour and environmental issues. The uranium mining and waste problems at Elliot Lake are where I formed my sense of environmental and social justice. I participated in the first environmental assessment on the decommissioning of a uranium mine in Canada in the late 1990s.

I moved into working as an editor at a First Nations newspaper, and then worked for a Tribal Council on sustainable forest management policies and helped create a First Nation owned forestry business. I worked with Indigenous communities on forest policy as an advocate within provincial forest policy. In 2001 I moved to Ottawa to work with the National Aboriginal Forestry Association where I became executive director. I have worked with community organizations, business leaders, provincial governments, Indigenous communities and federal agencies. I met Elizabeth May when we were both working on the National Forest Strategy. I joined the Green Party in 2008 and have served as Indigenous Affairs Critic since then. My husband and I opened a business in Kemptville in 2004.

**2. Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?**

I am a property owner and a small business owner in Kemptville where my husband and I operate Rekmans Automotive which has served Kemptville since 2004. I live in Osgoode Village which is 5 km from the Leeds Grenville Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes riding and have lived here for 18 years.

**3. What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?**

I volunteered on a community project to publish a book about the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and the impact of uranium mining at Serpent River First Nation. I have volunteered on citizens advisory committees for provincial forest management planning and have volunteered on many boards for non-profit organizations, some local and some national. At present I volunteer on the Board of Directors for the Forest Stewardship Council of Canada.

**4. In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?**

Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech has been very influential in my life's work because it speaks to social justice and the need for a more peaceful world. I believe in order to be progressive, we must address all outstanding social justice issues in Canada.

**5. What previous politician, (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?**

Mahatma Gandhi is a role model for me because he advocated for political change using peaceful resistance.

**6. What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?**

My top priority would be to work to eliminate poverty using the Guaranteed Livable Income and immediately improve the quality of life for the people in this riding. I would work on a housing first policy to address the growing concern of homelessness. As MP I will work with other elected members at the federal, provincial and municipal level to develop strategies and provide funding to deal with this crisis as soon as possible. I would work with other MPs to introduce legislation that will provide direct funding to municipalities of 1 point of GST so that communities could address their immediate and long overdue infrastructure projects. I would work with the communities in the riding on a connectivity strategy to rebuild transportation systems with green technologies that link communities. This would create local jobs and meet local priorities.

**7. Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns?**

I would work with other members of parliament to reform the electoral system in Canada so that voters would be fairly represented. I believe a percentage of votes should translate into a percentage of seats in the House of Commons.